

WRESTLING FORUM

MAY 30, 1987

VOLUME II

ISSUE 10

for your reading pleasure...

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SO MUCH FOR CLEVELAND

The soap opera continues...I will not be going to Cleveland this next week as planned earlier. I got a call from my prospective district manager on 5-26 letting me know that due to the end of the company's fiscal year, they would not be placing someone in my prospective territory for a while. There's more to the story, but I'm too depressed to relate it now... bottom line is, yours truly is still unemployed.

In the meantime, thank you all again for your kind words and votes of encouragement. A lot of you wrote to say the last two issues were the best we've ever put out, and I give the credit to the fact that we had some great contributions and the fact that I had all the time in the world to work on them. As they say in show business, keep them cards and letters coming.

For those of you worried that the bulletin might fold due to me being unemployed, please get that thought out of your mind. The Wrestling Forum bank account is kept entirely separate from our personal account, and the only time I did into it, is to pay ourselves AFTER the profit from a particular issue has been determined. We are not folding, and as far as I can tell, we won't. As Robert Schuller says, "Tough times never last, tough people do".

Enough of the pity party. Welcome to our new subscribers who have no idea what the first three paragraphs are all about. This is Wrestling Forum, a twice a month publication that attempts to keep up with the goings-on of professional wrestling. In addition to news, we also feature a lot of fan input (as a "forum" should), in the ways of features, letters, columns, results, and...well, keep reading and see for yourself. The cost of this bulletin is \$1.25 per issue and it's available in subscription form in any multiple of \$1.25 upto 12 issues worth (six months-\$15.00).

As for contributions, what I'm looking for most is things for our "Wrestlers Are People Too" column and results. With your results, include as much information about the card as you can. We also need people to vote in our imaginary tournament, and Jeff Siegel has come up with another brilliant idea for fan participation that will be something of a barometer for what's going on in the sport. We'll have more details on this as

Jeff send them along.

A few notes from past issues while I'm thinking about them...Three or four issues ago I asked what a "lights-out match" was...JD McKay informs me that a lights out match is simply one not sanctioned by the promotion. The promotion "turns it back on the match" or pretends to shut out the lights and go home before the match takes place. The record book (as if there is one) shows no match ever taking place and no win or loss is ever recorded. See...even us newsletter editors don't know everything. Thanks J.D., for the info.

A letter a couple of issues back state that the writer (female) didn't know how many of our subscribers were female. I didn't either. So, bringing back our INCREDIBLY STUPID STATISTIC DEPARTMENT for another fling...88% of our SUBSCRIBERS are male as opposed to 8% being female. 4% are undecided (actually THEY aren't undecided; I am...they either use initials or have names that could be either male or female).

One last thing...we have had some questions regarding our goals for this bulletin. I make no secret of any of the goals...as of 5-28, we have 105 subscribers. I want 200 by year's end. This issue is being sent out to several as a free sample. To those people, please let me know what you think. In the meantime, I would like to get at least one subscriber in each state. We currently cover 29 states and 4 Canadian provinces. New York has the most with 14 followed by California with 13. I should point out, however that for some reason we have four unrenewed subscriptions in California that I expect to come in within the next couple of days. Illinois comes in third.

Next issue, if there's enough response to this (or lack of response appropriately) I'll list the states that we lack subscribers in just in case you all would like to help. When I talk about subscribers, that number does not include the number of free copies mailed each month, nor does it include people who send in for a sample copy.

My thanks to Gary Fishman who tipped me off to the big story this issue...the arrest of Jim Duggan and the Iron Sheik (details in WWF report). I'll give you the whole story of how we finally dug up the whole story in misc. stuff. On to the news...

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

"HENNIG STAYS - EDITOR STICKS FOOT IN MOUTH AGAIN"...That's what our headline here should read after what I printed last issue. On the surface, it's not nearly as confusing as what I made it last issue, and what I'm going to say this time. What happened was the AWA has decided on a "4-2 vote by the championship committee" to give the title to Hennig after his controversial win over Nick Bockwinkel on 5-2 in San Francisco. Hennig had come to an agreement with the WWF and in fact had a start date with them. He had been promised the AWA title late last year to keep him from jumping to the WWF then. He was then showcased in several matches with Bockwinkel, never winning the title until this night. The AWA did a good job on the video tape they showed of the match. Supposedly, Curt was handed a roll of coins by Larry Zybszko with which he KO'd Nick. The tape showed Larry handing Curt something (or perhaps just whispering something to him), then Nick going down like a ton of bricks. The only time we actually got to see anything...Curt handed something back to Zybszko and Ray Stevens grabbed Larry's arm causing dimes to fall all over the ring. When the "championship committee" saw the tape, they awarded the title to Hennig.

According to my WWF source, since this is the second time Curt has reniged on a handshake deal with Titan, we won't be invited back, "even to do jobs for Terry Gibbs". I understand that Curt had a lot of pressure put on him by his father Larry Hennig to stay. Then again, maybe Curt is sitting back laughing at Verne now having pulled off a very successful bluff (he's even probably giggling at the WWF a bit too).

I apologize to you all for the inaccuracy in which the AWA report is done sometimes. I think I have a very good source for news in the AWA, however, when Verne doesn't know from one minute to the next who's doing what, it make it awfully hard to report to you with a great deal of accuracy. Also, certain people within the promotion have a tendency to stretch the truth just a bit, therefore making inside information a little harder to come by.

Meanwhile, during the time the title was held up, Verne himself appeared on the syndicated show saying that if the situation wasn't cleared up in a week or so, he was going to put the trunks back on again and

become champ again. Perish the thought!

Other big news concerns a new alliance of power so to speak. Verne has reached a working agreement with Central States, Alabama, Memphis, and the Pacific Northwest (in other words the NWA castoffs) to share talent. In addition to this, Jerry Blackwell has gone into Georgia to start working with the Deep South promotion in conjunction with the AWA. Hennig will be defending his title as a World's Title within all of these promotions. This should give the AWA title a little more credibility nationally.

In the Main Promotion, Hennig looks to be set to feud with Greg Gagne. They are trying to get Curt over as a heel, but feuding him with Greg may not be the way to do that. Even aligning himself with Larry Zbyszko may not be the answer. Maybe he's going to have to smack Larry Nelson or something (no, that wouldn't do it either).

I got a chance to see Paul "the Avalanche" Neu work. Not actually work, but at least, be in the ring with another wrestler. Basically all he did was stand in the middle of the ring and let the other guy bounce off his stomach then fall on him at the end, presumably after the other guy got tired of running into Neu's belly.

And as if having Leon White, Jerry Blackwell, and the Neu guy isn't enough, Big Bubba, the tub of lard from Memphis is coming in. Well, one thing, Verne can never be accused of discriminating against beached whales.

From Chicago comes word that the Tribune Company who not only owns the Chicago Tribune but also WGN radio and TV has offered to help the AWA in exchange for part of the action. They met with Ric Flair in an effort to get him to jump to the AWA and from what I understand made him an offer of a million dollars a year. Flair met with Crockett before turning the offer down. From my tribune source I also understand a similar offer was made to the Road Warriors and they too turned the offer down. I'm not sure how much they are going to be able to help the AWA if this kind of money is being turned down. I'm not even sure of what kind of work would be expected in exchange for this kind of money. I'll try to have more on this either later on or next issue.

What's this? More AWA stuff? How's this: The Midnight rockers have dropped the tag team titles to Boris Zhukov and What's His Name Ustinov. The change took place this past Monday night 5-25 in Lake Tahoe, NV. I don't think the TV cameras were there, mainly because the decision to change the title was a last minute one. The Midnight Rockers have left the AWA for the WWF.

As the story goes, the WWF was awfully proud of themselves for signing Curt Hennig away. They were bragging that feat up then ended up with egg on their face when he decided to stay (gee, I know how that feels). Their goal from there then, was to do what ever they could that would hurt Verne the most. I think they have succeeded. For the past year and a half, the Midnight Rockers have been the only bright spot in the AWA. I moaned and groaned when it took so long to give them the titles. It sure didn't take long to take them away.

Meanwhile, who's going to challenge Zhukov and Ustinov for the titles? The AWA doesn't have any established babyface tag teams, especially with Greg and Curt feuding. Can you imagine how horrible a match between the Russians and Blackwell/Neu would be (I hope you're not eating while reading this)? Verne just may have to see just how much cooperation he's going to get from the newly formed alliance. There's plenty of good tag teams out there...will they be willing to work for Verne on a consistent basis? Time will tell.

One other question...I wonder if the deal the WWF mad with the Rockers includes the "honorary Rocker" Larry nelson. We can only hope (then send him to the same place as Jack Reynolds, Ken Resnick, and others).

ESPN continues to shift the AWA around as they've done since they started to carry it. It would probably do better, both in ratings and in being able to attract talent if they didn't continue to pre-empt it for things like darts, dwarf tossing, and college tiddleywinks. Flood ESPN with letters...that way if they ever get a decent promotion, they won't screw around with it.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

There's a lot going on here, but first I want to lay down some ground rules as to how we've decided to handle things coming from the Crockett Camp. Anything that has bearing on the NWA as it is based out of Charlotte will be listed here. Anything that has importance in regards to the Florida and UWF promotions will be handled in those news sections accordingly.

First of all, the Midnight Express has won the US tag championships in the tournament. Last issue I told you they had won it only I said that two days before they did. All I can say is, "whew!". A lot of callers this past week have expressed some surprise as the Express had at one time been "World" champions and this seemed to be a demotion. True, but...the team that was world champs consisted of Eaton and Condrey... this one is comprised of Eaton and Lane. Not a big point, but maybe it answers some questions. Still doesn't make sense since Lane is a much better worker than Condrey.

The match itself was pretty decent. It got wild, and I had a little trouble writing down the ending. That's okay, cos they must have showed the end at least 23 times. In fact, the 5-16 consisted of a Freebirds video and this match. that was it.

Anyhow, it went in the neighborhood of 25 minutes. The end came when Stan and Ron Garvin were battling outside the ring with Barry Windham and Bobby Eaton inside. The ref took an obligatory bump and Cornette moved in to clobber Ron with the tennis racket while Stan held him. Barry tried to jump in but ended up getting whacked with the racket. Jim then swung at Ron, but he moved and the racket hit Stan instead. Cornette took off running around the ring with Garvin in pursuit. Barry caught Jim on lap number one in a sleeper while Ron went back in the ring to tend to Bobby. Stan then bent a chair over Ron's head while Barry was busy putting Jim to sleep. Bobby fell on top of Ron while Stan revived the ref. Three count; new champs.

Otherwise how are things...the Freebirds are in, probably to work the Atlanta show then return to the UWF. Of course they may work spot shows too like Chicago, but the main thing here is that they are legends in Atlanta. To make things interesting, they have them in the Omni on 6-7 going against Lex, Tully, and Flair.

Dusty is right back in the spot light again. Last issue when we left him, he had offered to put up fifty grand against Tully's equal amount for the TV title in a TV match. They tried doing this one up right. They showed a meeting between JJ, Tully, Arn, and Lex with Crockett Dusty, and of all people, Magnum. JJ requested that Crockett give Tully \$50,000 up front money. Crockett wrote out the check and gave it to JJ. Immediately, JJ handed the check back to Crockett as their stake in the match (each wrestler had to put up 50K). The match has been signed for Greensboro on 6-6 (I thought it was to be on TV! After all, it is a TV title!). The match was to be 1 fall, sixty minute time limit.

I saw "was" because in a subsequent match, Dusty got his left leg injured again. It happen while he was teaming with Nikita against Flair and Lex. Nikita was getting worked over by the two pretty good but managed to tag Dusty. Mr. Ego came in and cleared house of not only Flair and Luger, but also JJ. While he was doing this, Flair managed to spear Dusty's leg. Dus recovered to get the figure four on Ric. At this point the four horsemen (actually other two) hit the ring and they recreated the angle that set up Starrcade 85...jumping on and presumably breaking Dusty's leg. No word as of this writing as to what is going to happen, but at this point, I would guess the reinforced boot that Dusty has worn in the past will be making a comeback.

While we're talking about that match, did you notice Nikita? He stopped playing Superman and started to actually work. Even against Luger, HE LOOKED GOOD! With Flair in the ring, he even did a belly-to back bridge that I thought only Flair and Garvin could pull off.

I have since seen a match with Flair and Windham pulling the same thing.

Despite his injured leg, Dusty has yet to miss a booking. He's appeared at every show he's been scheduled at including Chicago on the 24th. So much for believability in that angle.

We'll have new tag team champions here before long. As I understand it, Rick Rood has pulled a "Dennis Condrey" act and just walked out. He disappeared from action on about the 21st with no word as to where he was or where he was going. If Mr. Crockett is still wondering, I suggest he check with the WWF offices, as they have already been releasing his name as being on upcoming cards. Meanwhile, Ivan Koloff and Vladimir Petrov have been filling in for him in title matches. Either they will continue to fill in, or we'll see new tag champs soon.

With Dusty gearing up to take the TV title back from Tully (where else could they be going with that angle?), the obvious choice for new champions may be down the drain. That choice of course would be Dusty and Nikita. I can see Nikita losing the US belt to Lex, but if Dusty has his sights set on the TV title, he won't rest till he gets it.

Perhaps the Freebirds then? Possibly. The Road Warriors? Not till they sign an iron clad contract that says they would do a job for new champions sometime in the future. The Rock and Roll Express again? I doubt it. They're not hot anymore (people heard Rick Morton sing). Maybe some team from the UWF? Or maybe Hector and Jim Valiant can take the belts for a night before losing to the New Breed. My guess would be either the Freebirds or the Garvins. We should see what's going to happen in the next couple of weeks.

Late word in from a phone call...I've been told that the Rock and Roll Express were promised the tag belts again sometime before the first week of June. By the time we talk again, they could be the champs. We'll keep you updated.

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS

Dear Jon,

Why are there so few blacks getting a push in pro wrestling? This was evidenced ever so strongly by "the major league of Pro Wrestling" at their 1987 Crockett Cup in Baltimore. Only Pez Whatley and Rocky King were black. Why doesn't Crockett have any "name" black wrestlers? Or is it Dusty calling the shots? I have noticed that there are more blacks who attend wrestling cards than they do baseball or hockey games here in Pittsburgh. I would say close to 15% of the Crockett Cup crowd was black and yet there were only two black wrestlers. Why is this so? Is the Crockett family racist or are they afraid they would lose their Southern white fans if any blacks were put over?

-John H. Lanigan-

-McKeesport, PA-

EDITOR: Now I know what poor Al Campanis felt like...Let's take a look at the record: Butch Reed got a good push as did Pez Whatley in Georgia circa 1983. No blacks have gotten that kind of push since the WWF took over Georgia in July of 1984. Verne Gagne has never given a black a push to my knowledge. Bad News Allen Coage lost his push when Crockett took over Florida. Bill Watts had always been very open minded in this regard when you consider Junk Yard Dog got his start there and had a tremendous following. More recently, Savannah Jack held the TV title and Iceman Parsons got a good push as a heel during this time. Since the Crockett takeover there, Jack is gone and Iceman looks to be moving to a back burner. Vince gave the tag titles to Tony Atlas and Rocky Johnson a few years back. He has since pushed both Reed and Koko B. Ware as well as JYD. What ever the case, the blacks are usually stereotyped in their roles. Kamala is a classic case. Part of the problem may in fact lie in the fact that there are not all that many black wrestlers period. Of the ones there are, only a few are what I would consider good workers. In most promotions, one who cannot work is not pushed. I AM NOT SAYING THAT BLACKS ARE NOT GOOD WORKERS, what I am saying is: Considering the current roster of blacks, Koko is the best of the bunch. Reed at one time was good enough to be a World's Champ, but his workrate has dropped dramatically since he left Watts. True, some promotions leave a lot to be desired in their treatment of blacks (and Gagne's push of Col DeBeers was ridiculous considering Gagne didn't bring in a single black to feud with him and soundly thrash him), but what we need to do first is find one (Allen Coage comes to mind) that has a good enough work rate so that it wouldn't look like the promotion was pushing the man JUST because he was black.

Dear Jon;

Last issue you talked about wrestlers using profanity and ethnic slurs to create heat. You were right on target. There are other more effective ways to raise heat without showing your ignorance. We had a guy in our promotion a few years back that decided to take a short cut in that manner. When a few of us met him after a match and did a number on him, he quickly changed his ways. Verne should not put up with that from his wrestlers. He must be getting a little lax in his later years.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

SECOND ANNUAL WRESTLING FORUM TOURNAMENT
by Sean Grande

Here are the results of the "B" bracket in round one. One one is now complete and we'll move on to round two. Your votes determine the winners in this imaginary tournament. Let's get to the results though before going into how to vote.

Randy Savage shutout Animal Hamaguchi 20-0
Marty Jannetty got seven votes, Sean Michaels got 4, there were 9 draws.
Road Warrior Animal squashed Dick Slater 19-1
Antonio Inoki got by Jim Brunzell 13-7
Terry Taylor routed Jerry Stubbs 18-1 (1 draw)
Adrian Adonis slipped by Kuniaki Kobayashi 14-6
Dino Bravo advanced by Jeff Jarrett 15-5
Terry Gordy destroyed Shiro Koshinaka 18-1 (1 draw)
Terry Funk boogied past Jimmy Valiant 16-3 (1 draw)
David Schultz edged Dory Funk Jr. 10-9 (1 draw)
Manny Fernandez beat the devil out of Kevin Sullivan 11-5 (1 draw)
Genichiro tenryu defeated Jesse Barr 14-5 (1 draw)
Jumbo Tsuruta eliminated Mike Graham 18-2
Bobby Eaton over Bob Orton 12-8
Ivan Koloff powered past Larry Zbyszko 15-5
Yoshiaki Yatsu downed Chris Champion 17-3
Ricky Steamboat chopped down Ben Bassarab 18-2
Colonel DeBeers snuck past Tim Horner 10-9 (1 draw)
Wayne Ferris honky tonked Wuhoo McDaniel 11-7 (2 draws)
Jerry Lawler crowned Steve Regal 17-2 (1 draw)
Tully Blanchard smashed Matt Porne 19-1
Rip Oliver sent Greg Gagne home by a score of 10-9 (1 draw)
Mike Miller outlasted Ron Simmons 11-7 (2 draws)
Barry Windham bulldogged Kendall Windham 18-1 (1 draw)
Bret Hart escaped Brutus Beefcake's scissors 14-6
Michael Hayes rocked Ricky Morton 15-4 (1 draw)
Road Warrior Hawk thrashed Stan Lane 19-1
Jim Duggan speared Don Muraccol 14-4 (2 draws)
Nikita Koloff pinned Pedro Morales 15-4 (1 draw)
Ron Garvin KO'd Bill Dundee 15-5
Kengo Kimura survived Ricky Santana 13-2 (5 draws)
Stan Hansen stormed past Black Bart 19-1

TO VOTE IN THE FOLLOWING ROUND: Pick your winners and send them (post cards will do fine) to: SEAN GRANDE - 10 Waterside Plaza #25A, NEW YORK NY 10010. Each time you cast a vote, you have an entry into the prize pool to be given away at the end of the year (prizes include a 1987 yearbook when published). Here are round two match ups...wrestlers playing the role of heel are CAPITALIZED...those that are seeds are indicated by the number in parenthesis.

RIC FLAIR (1) vs Jim Garvin
Nobuhiko Takada (17) vs Hercules
Riki Choshu (9) vs JAKE ROBERTS
BUTCH REED (24) vs Tito Santana
TED DIBIASE (5) vs Chavo Guerrero
Rick Martel (21) vs BUZZ SAWYER
Dynamite Kid (13) vs ARN ANDERSON
Hulk Hogan (29) vs Keiji Mutoh
Randy Savage r'cd bye
Terry Taylor (19) vs ADRIAN ADONIS
Terry Funk (11) vs DAVID SHULTZ
Jumbo Tsuruta (27) vs BOBBY EATON
Rick Steamboat (7) vs COL. DEBEERS

DUSTY RHODES (32) vs Kevin Von Erich
Steve Williams (16) vs PAUL ORNDORFF
Nick Bockwinkel (25) vs LEX LUGER
Tatsumi Fujinami (8) vs ONE MAN GANG
Greg valentine r'cd bye as Roddy Piper retires
HARLEY RACE (12) vs Rick Rood
AKIRA MAEDA (20) vs Bad News Allen
BRUISER BRODY (4) vs Sam Houston
ANTONIO INOKI (30) vs Road Warrior Animal
Terry Gordy (14) vs DINO BRAVO
Genichiro Tenryu (22) vs MANNY FERNANDEZ
Yoshiaki Yatsu (6) vs IVAN KOLOFF
Jerry Lawler (26) vs HONKY TONK MAN

TULLY BLANCHARD (23) vs RIP OLIVER
BRET HART (15) vs Michael Hayes
NIKITA KOLOFF (31) vs Ron Garvin

Barry Windham (10) vs MIKE MILLER
Jim Duggan (12) vs ROAD WARRIOR HAWK
STAN HANSEN (2) vs Kengo Kimura

TOURNEYFACTS: SOMETIMES CRIME DOES PAY: 35 of the 64 wrestlers who advanced to round two were babyfaces...THOU SHALT GET ZIP: Randy Savage joins the shutout club with his 20-0 victory over the now retired Animal Hamaguchi...STAR QUALITY: One of this round's participating voters was the man himself, Dave Meltzer...MAYBE IT WAS THE INCREASE IN POSTAL RATES: This issue's vote count of 20 was the lowest of voters ever...UPSETS: Again no real upsets although the margin of Mike Hayes' 15-4-1 over Rick Morton was quite a surprise...Antonio Inoki was the only seed ever in any danger of being upset; he led Jim Brunzell at one point by only one point 7-6...COMEBACK: David Schultz staged a late rally, trailing 8-3, came back to defeat Dory Funk 10-9-1...maybe Funk's age played a fatigue role in the late going.

MEMPHIS

There's an old saying that when the cat's away, the mice will play. That's not true in Memphis. Whenever Jerry Lawler takes some time off, not much else happens.

Lawler took off about a month before returning to the mid South Coliseum this past Monday night. Normally this would mean a sell out, but severe weather in the area held the crowd to around 7500. I don't have any other details on the card other than Lawler's feud with Idol and Rich is still the hottest ticket in wrestling today.

There have been some notable departures, mainly Bubba (AWA bound) and Goliath, which takes care of Downtown Bruno's stable for the most part. One has to wonder if Bruno is far behind.

Also gone is Dale "the Hunter" Veasy. He walked out on the promotion after they gave him his two weeks notice. Memphis wrestlers get their checks in Nashville on Saturday nights. A couple of weeks back, Eddie Marlin and Dale (along with Bambi) had a heated argument before a match. After the match, all Eddie said was "good job". The next week, he and Dale went in to a side room near the dressing rooms, and Dale and Bambi stormed out, suitcase in hand. Dale was scheduled that night, but Chick Donovan ended up working two matches instead. Possibly the night after night grind of having to work with Alan West got to him.

A team called "the Southern Boys" have made their appearance, but much to the fans' disappointment after finding out who they were. the team consists of Bob Cook (who's not all that bad for his size) and Bucky Siegler (a second generation wrestler).

Some classic matches are taking place between Pat Tanaka/Paul Diamond and Billy Travis/Jeff Jarrett. Pat has perfected a very nice looking DDT, and it's being sold well. With these four hard workers in the ring together, this could well be the uncrowned feud of the year. The Midnight Rockers has some classic matches with Pat and Paul too, but those matches are now a thing of the past unfortunately. Verne would do well to promote one of these two teams for his next set of champions.

WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

This issue's installment of WAPT comes from someone who was once associated with Jim Crockett Promotions. I'm not sure in what capacity, but these observations are based on their experience with wrestlers while they worked here.

DUSTY RHODES

The kingpin of the group. Jon is right about this man's ego. It's the only thing bigger than his belly. He isn't real fond of fans, especially those who are "in the know". He hates bulletins, but he wonders where all the information comes from. One thing...when this man's mind clicks into gear, there's no stopping him. I heard him refer to himself one time as "the Agatha Christie of Wrestling".

TERRY TAYLOR

Somehow I get the impression that he is going to be a great heel...it seems to fit the real Terry Taylor. He seems to go out of his way to abuse fans verbally, sometimes physically. He has a bad case of "rabbit ears" as he hears virtually everything the fans yell. He's been known to come back to the dressing room and say, "Did you hear that @*&(&@ in the forth row?"

TED DIBIASE

This man is a mirror of the fan who approaches him. If you come up to him as a wise ass, it is a waste of your time. I knew him while he was a fat heel working Georgia just before the WWF takeover. He had been blamed for the destruction of Bob Armstrong's face, and because of this, he was more than cautious when approached by any fan. Become friends with this man and he will talk your leg off. Very eager to please the fans whether playing heel or babyface.

TOMMY RICH

Tommy seems friendly enough with fans. He's a down home country boy in real life. I would want to make sure I knew where my 14 year old daughter was at all times though, if he were around.

IRON SHEIK

If you are a wrestler, this is one man you want to make friends with. He can make you look good, or he can make you look as bad as the greenest rookie. Outside the arena, he continues his role as a heel. Away from the arena (hotel, gas station, etc.) he can be pretty friendly. Also a good idea to get on the good side of him (as a wrestler) because he's known as one of the best shooters in the business.

MAGNUM TA

Fawn over Terry, you're in like Flint (females). Males can get close to him if he's in the right mood (which isn't very often). I haven't seen him since his accident, but I would imagine not much has changed.

DAVID CROCKETT

What you see is what you get. If this man's brother wasn't rich, he'd be terminally unemployed.

GORDON SOLIE

This man is a walking talking vault of wrestling anecdotes, stories, and general knowledge. Tap in to it, and this man will talk for hours. He is gracious with fans and is always interested in their opinion (or appears to be). He truly prides himself on his knowledge of a wrestler's anatomy, and how holds effect different parts. He is the reason Florida wrestling still carries missing children reports and the reason they were started on WTBS.

OUR CHILDHOOD HEROES

Going back into my childhood as a wrestling fan, I can remember sitting up till midnight on Saturday nights, waiting for the new station out of the Quad Cities to bring on their wrestling program. Larry Hennig and Harley Race ruled the tag team scene at the time, and they were collectively known as "the Dolly Sisters", so named my my hero, da one, da only da Crusher, the wrestler who made Milwaukee famous.

Crusher ruled the roost here in the midwest. He took on the challenge of every heel and usually came out on top. His training methods were a little unorthodox; he claimed he would run the shores of Lake Michigan with a keg of beer on each shoulder. He finished his regiment when both kegs were empty. He chewed cigars on interviews with a gravel pit voice that you paid attention to. To a generation of fans in the Midwest, he was the 1960's version of Hulk Hogan.

Talk to John Lanigan about growing up in Pittsburgh. Talk to him about growing up in the midst of WWWF country and he'll tell you about the exploits of Bruno Sammartino. Bruno War Stories are legendary, thus the moniker of the Living Legend that has been hung on him. He was the people's champ in the East; a poor son of an immigrant who came to America and made good.

Outside the ring, Bruno was a model citizen as well. One time he visited the father of a bar owner who was celebrating a birthday (somewhere in his 80's I believe). He sat with the man, conversing in Italian, bringing more good will than a hundred press releases could do. Bruno Sammartino proved time and time again that he was truly a class act.

Fans on the west coast had their own hero. His name was Freddie Blassie. He spent most of his career as one of the vilest heels on the face of the earth. But as the adage goes, the more hated as a heel, the more loved as a face, when Fred Blassie turned babyface, there was no one who could touch him. Playing the role of a Batman in a crime riddled wrestling promotion, Blassie packed 'em in to the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles for years.

Love him, or hate him, Blassie was a star. He ended his active career as a babyface (although he went

to the modern day WWF as a heel), his fans cheering his every move.

These are the men who made a country happy. These are the men who ruled their respective parts of the country with no more effort than stepping through the ropes.

Taking a closer look, though, these three men also had one other thing in common. Besides being contemporaries of each other, they were all wrestlers who left a lot to be desired in the workrate department. Bruno, the Crusher, and Fred Blassie were all three brawlers. They were very adept at this, but as for being able to work or carry a match...they had their problems.

But pulling people to an arena was no problem. Bruno could pack Madison Square Garden; Crusher sold out many a Chicago Amphitheatre; Blassie held court in SRO arenas up and down the west coast.

But they pulled people in, only in their own backyards. Each of these heroes were custom made for the area of the country he worked in. Crusher would have failed had he worked the East Coast on a regular basis. Bruno couldn't have drawn consistently on the west coast just as Blassie would have done miserably here in the midwest. Each man had had his persona honed to perfection in his own area.

These men were the 1960's versions of Hulk Hogan in their respective regions. We didn't care if they couldn't work. We just liked going and seeing them beat up on the guy we hated. And we got our money's worth each time we showed up.

I envy the kids of today who grow up with Hulk Hogan as their hero. John Lanigan and I can good naturedly argue about our respective heroes. Today's generation will only know that man who made wrestling in the 80's what it is today. Hulk Hogan.

And twenty years from now, it won't matter a lick that Hulk couldn't work either. He will be someone's childhood hero...who could draw fans from the east, west, or midwest...unlike the men who were heroes to my generation.

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE
by Howard Siegel

We all know that Gorilla Monsoon's real name is Bob Morella, and that he is of Italian-American descent, still living in Willingsboro, New Jersey. In a 1964 interview, he stated: "My parents were Russian. I was born in a small town in Manchuria in 1937." so much for truth in advertising.

The line up included Don Muraco vs Ivan Koloff, Rene Goulet vs Jim Brunzell, and Kosrow Vazeri (who we know as the Iron Sheik) vs Johnny Heidemman. A recent card? Nope. Winnipeg, Canada card - 1973.

Retrospect: February 1965, National Guard Armory, Lakeland Florida. Preliminary match: Bob Orton DQ'd at 41 minutes of a 45 minute match vs Sam Steamboat. He refused the referee's warning to release a choke hold. Twenty years later, Bob Orton Jr. DQ'd for choking Ricky (no relation to Sam) Steamboat in Baltimore, Maryland. A chip off the old block...Another chip off the old block: Kerry (Von Erich) Adkisson won the Texas state high school track and field meet title competing for Lake Dallas High. He tossed the discus 195' 7", a conference record formerly held by Fritz. The year was 1973.

Bill Watts' erudite interviews are not the result of newly acquired know ho. He was a member of the National Honor Society in high school and on the Dean's honor roll in college.

The fanzines lately have made note of the change in the AWA heavy-weight title from Nick Bockwinkel to Curt Hennig, yet in the days after the match, Bock continued to reign as kingpin in some areas. Well, in January of 1968, at the San Francisco Cow Palace, a "Battle of the Century" took place wherein both the WWF world's title and the AWA US title was at stake in the same match. Bruno Sammartino lost to Ray Stevens. Two nights later, Bruno was back at Madison Square Garden defending the WWF title.

The claim that Andre has never lost a battle royal is just not so. In Los Angeles, 1978 he was eliminated in a 20 man affair. The winner was East Coast prelim man Johnny (the Unpredictable) Rodz, who was in the zenith of his career as Java Ruuk. Johnny has just about retired, preferring to concentrate on his regular vocation as a jewelry setter in New York's diamond district.

A bit about the Dynamite Kid: In 1978 he was ranked as the British welterweight champion; and later that year captured the European title as Leicester de Montford HALL, England by beating Frenchman Jean Corne in the 10th round of a 15 round match. Each round was three minutes long. Mr. Billington started training at the age of 14 under the guidance of Ted Betley, former pro boxer who was a friend of his father. The Kid worked as a hod carrier, or bricklayer's apprentice when not training. His first pro match was in 1975 at Malvern, England as a lightweight. He won.

Best description I ever heard of Don Backlund: He looks like Howdy Doodo in swimming trunks.

Let me end this issue's trip with an amusing piece of nostalgia. The main event was Gene "Mr. America" Stanlee vs "two ton" Tony Calento, a former top rated boxer who gave Joe Louis quite a match. For ten minutes Stanlee stood in the ring posing and flexing his muscles (Hogan wasn't the first); Calento did not show up. In a panic, the promoter rushed to the dressing room only to find Tony fast asleep on the trainer's table, snoring like a felled California Redwood tree. Tony was probably still in a daze, since Stanlee gave him a good going over.

FLORIDA
By Jeff Bowdren

A slow couple of weeks here in the Sunshine State. The past two weeks have seen arena tapes substituting for the studio show. Ironically, though Flair, the Road Warriors, Rude/Fernandez and a lot of other Charlotte guys were at the arena tapings, the best matches on the circuit have been between Dory Funk Jr. & Mike Graham. Watching their matches really gives you a lot of respect for the two old pros. All they do is come out and have good solid if not spectacular matches. Hey, I'm the first one to admit I'm not talking Tiger mask vs the Dynamite Kid here, but I think I would much rather watch these guys work a match than sit through a hundred matches between Nikita and Lex (a sure cure for insomnia if there ever was one).

A big story could be brewing as it appears they're trying something wild with Kevin Sullivan. This past weekend Kevin came out during an interview with Gordon and had trouble remembering what he was saying. Gordon kept prompting him by saying, "You were talking about Dusty Rhodes, remember?" Kevin would say, "Dusty...Gordon, is it warm in here to you?" Well, this went on for a couple of minutes before Gordon finally says, "Kevin, do you feel okay? Maybe you should come back when you feel better." Later Oliver Humperdink comes out and mentions that Kevin has been bothered lately by headaches. This whole thing appears to them coming up with something to the effect that Kevin has been suffering from memory loss for the last 5 years or so (if this is the case, he'll obviously forget marrying Fallen Angel and my fantasy of being her slave forever could still be a possibility). One of the main reasons I feel this may happen is that apparently very innocently Gordon called him "Kevin". Gordon NEVER calls the heels by their first name. I could be dead wrong, but if something happens, you heard it here first.

NOTES:UWF guys came in for a short tour, Steiner/Sting looked great, Bubba had to work a whole week against Big Ed Gantner, so oh well... Shepherders are back, expected to feud with new Florida tag champs Mike Graham and Steve Keirn (real estate business can't be that bad!). Keirn has actually looked pretty good since coming out of retirement, baring no resemblance to the person who showed up in Baltimore for the tag team tournament...No idea what the future holds for the Mod Squad (Jon heard Continental) or the Southern Boys...Gantner not getting over nearly as well as expected...then again, what exactly did they expect?... Jerry Grey back from Japan and mentioned on TV as being vastly improved, so maybe a little push in the middle of the card is coming...They're apparently trying to make Sam Anoaia out to be some sort of karate guy, but he misses way too many kicks to make it appear realistic...Humperdink can't decide how many times Dory Funk Jr. held the world's title as on different weeks he has said 6, 4, and this past week it was 7 years... Vince returns to Miami on 6-11 with Savage vs Honky Tonk, Davis vs Koko, and George Steele vs Butch Reed (break out the no-doze with that one fans)...In closing a personal note to my personal all time favorite Ted DiBiase. The first time Vince puts you in Miami, I'll plunk down my twenty bucks. Just for you. Don't disappoint me by giving only 50%. That just wouldn't be you. You know me. I'll be screaming my guts out, happy that I finally got to see TED DIBIASE in person. I just wished it could have been with you as world champ.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

The big news from the WWF concerns the signing of UWF star Ted DiBiase. The news came just as we went to press last time as Ted appeared at the Houston WWF card and announced that he had decided to work for Vince and company. This could be a major blow to Crockett and his plans, but more significantly, it gives the WWF the man who I consider the best worker in North America (Ric Flair included). As for what will happen to him now that he has joined the group that doesn't insist on the kind of workrate that he has been producing is anybody's guess. He will debut at the next Houston card, playing the babyface role against another UWF defector One Man Gang. This is being done mainly to draw fans from that area who are familiar with both. DiBiase will be playing the heel role as soon as he is introduced to the WWF's national syndicated audience. So instead of looking forward to Flair-DiBiase matches, we'll have to settle for DiBiase-Steamboat matches I guess. This is pure speculation, but don't you suppose that DiBiase would be the next candidate for the Intercontinental title?

Meanwhile, One Man Gang has appeared and is under the guidance of Slick. He is being announced at 450 pounds which means he must have literally run from the UWF to the WWF because he's dropped about 50 pounds of his announced weight.

Ken Patera has started working around the circuit now and he flat looks terrible. He's winning with a bearhug that is so powerful, opponent submit to it even before he gets them in it (seriously, the refs here had better let the jobbers get the thing put on them before they go ringing the bell like they have been). There really is no excuse for him looking this bad...Even though he spent two years in jail, he was released five or six months ago. He's had all that time to get into shape, or at least practice a little.

It looks like Rick Steamboat is going to be playing a little different role as the intercontinental champion. From all reports, he will continue to be a great worker, however, he's going to be spending much of his time in the ring getting the snot beat out of him only to make a comeback and win. Bob Backlund used to do this when he was champ. There's nothing wrong with this except that people are going to start wondering why their champ gets beat up so bad all the time.

For those of you who have been wondering why all the fuss over Missy Hyatt on my part and have been anxiously awaiting her arrival in the WWF, you're just going to have to wait a little longer. She was in fact on the WWF payroll, and did tape some of her Hyatt House segments (an answer to Piper's Pit) for syndication, however the character just didn't take off live, and the WWF wasn't going to try to get her over on a national basis. She was playing the babyface role, a role that is completely unfamiliar to her. So instead of trying to develop her character as a face or change the character back to that of a heel, they just decided to get rid of her. After all, now that Sam Houston is in, that gives them the use of Baby Doll if they like. Then again there's always have Elizabeth. Who knows!

There has been some talk about some defections from here with the recent additions to staff. I have no firm names, but there seems to be some interest (believe it or not) in the AWA by those contemplating moving on. According to my source, none of the names are major ones, just ones that are afraid that if they don't make a move either they will be lost in the shuffle, or there won't be anywhere to go if they get lost there later.

Bobby Heenan appeared on the Snake Pit a couple of weeks ago with Hercules and Race. What stood out to me was the fact that he mentioned Bundy, Orndorff, and Andre when we haven't seen Bundy or Andre since Wrestlemania, and I haven't heard anything from Orndorff since he appeared on the 3-18 card in Chicago. One other note from this segment...they were talking about Ken Patera, and Race said, "Ventura, you have signed

your own death warrant!" I'm sure he meant to say Patera, not Ventura.

The new tag team that Bobby Heenan is referring to is the Islanders. From the taping they did in Los Angeles for the Superstar show, Heenan came and offered a contract to the Can Am Connection, but they turned it down. He then offered the same contract to the Islanders who took him up on it. This is just a bit confusing to me...they been threatening to release the movie "Body Slam" anytime now. They went to all that trouble to turn Piper babyface so that people wouldn't stay away from the movie in droves, and now, they go and turn the co-star (Tonga Kid-Toma) heel as part of the Islanders. Since the movie isn't WWF sanctioned, do you suppose this could be Vince's way of making sure it bombs?

Who'd have thunk it? Billy Superstar Graham is contemplating a comeback after having a hip replaced! My father is having the same operation on 5-28, and his doctors say he probably won't even be walking for a year (then again Dad is 67 and Graham is much... well, younger). I guess modern medicine is really something bordering on the miraculous. We thought Dynamite Kid would be an invalid the rest of his life and he's back to work.

SAVE THE BIG NEWS FOR LAST...Hacksaw Jim Duggan and the Iron Sheik have been suspended indefinitely said WWF spokesman Mike Webber. The pair were arrested by New Jersey State Police on the Garden Expressway en route to Asbury Park. The officer stopped the car when he saw one of the wrestlers (Duggan) allegedly drinking a beer. After stopping them, the officer decided to search further after smelling "burnt marijuana" in the car. He allegedly found burnt marijuana in the ashtray of the car and around 3mg of cocaine in one of the suitcases. Duggan was arrested on possession of less than 25mg of Marijuana and having open alcohol in a vehicle and was released on his own recognizance. Sheik was arrested for possession of less than 25mg of marijuana and for possession of cocaine which is an indictable offense. He was released on \$5000 bond.

The incident occurred on 5-26 in Middleton, NJ. I wonder if the arresting officer wondered what these two "enemies" were doing riding in the same car together.

You can forget about the Crockett buyout being kept secret. As I understand it, Crockett had originally purchased the UWF in hopes of running it as a separate entity with the only clue to the general public (concerning the buyout) being an occasional appearance by Ric Flair at big UWF shows and UWF stars at events such as Starrcade. From what has happened so far, they are patterning the takeover much the same way as they did Florida; bring in your own guys and whoever stays, stays, whoever leaves...so what.

The first change was of course, the UWF title being elevated to that of a World Title. The second was to have Bubba Rogers, a man who has done jobs for every single Crockett star, beat One Man Gang on his first trip into the area. Now, Brad Armstrong and Tim Horner have formed a team and on THEIR first trip in, they beat Rick Steiner and Sting for the UWF tag titles.

I think that this is another of Dusty's ego trips. By having his guys come in and beat UWF guys, it's his way of telling UWF fans that his guys were better all along. Even the guys who lost a lot in the NWA can beat the best the UWF has to offer. I call it an ego trip mainly because there is no point to be proved here. They're supposed to be working together and this latest incident seems to be very childish on Dusty's part if in fact this is the case. This may in fact be the reason that Ted DiBiase decided to leave. And if it is, I can't say that I blame him.

Joel Watts has decided to leave for the WWF after all. He had been undecided for some time, and apparently made his decision about two weeks ago. Joel had been responsible for a lot of the post production work on the UWF show and was the mastermind behind all of the UWF videos. He should prove to be another big loss for the UWF and a welcome gain for the WWF.

The UWF has also lost its TV outlet in the Pittsburgh area, at least temporarily. The station that carries UWF also carries Crockett's World Wide show, and according to someone at the station, there is a contractual dispute that should be worked out soon.

Steve Cox finally learned how to sell. In a recent TV bout, he was pitted against Bubba Rogers and though he didn't do a job, he came close. Bubba completely

destroyed Cox, but before Cox was forced to take a pin, they just ended the match. I mean they just quit. Steve Williams came to ringside to pull Cox out, and Skandor Akbar jumped in the ring to take part in a staredown with Doc. I hope they let Doc take the UWF title eventually.

I'm still a little behind on my tapes, but here's the latest installment: Terry Taylor (still as a babyface) wrestled Chris Adams. They set up the bout saying that they were trying to determine the next challenger for Bubba's title. The match progressed as a babyface match, clear to the end. At one point, Terry went flying out of the ring and Chris came and helped him back in. The end came when Chris was on the arena floor and Terry went out to help him back in. He pushed Chris back in at the count of seven, then had to stall to get back in himself in order to get counted out. He was of course furious with the decision, but nothing really happened. Later in the show, Chris came out and said he didn't want to win like that, so he offered Terry a rematch. Terry again made a big deal out of not making a big deal out of something, yet he did accept the rematch, telling Chris he thought he was a hell of a man to not take a win that way.

I've not seen the rematch yet (it took place the following week and my next tape), but I do know that Taylor turned heel. Although I don't have a full report on the Chicago card on 5-25, I do know they went to a double disqualification in their match. Reportedly, Terry is going to make a great heel, and could be seriously considered in our year end awards for best heel. I'm anxious to see this.

The have a Superdome Card coming up I believe the 13th of June. I don't have any details on the card itself, but I would guess all the big guns from the Charlotte office will be in for it as well.

WORLD CLASS
by Jeff Siegel

Problems, problems, problems. Maybe it's better to present them in bite-sized portions this issue:

NEWS ITEM: Kevin Von Erich collapses in the ring during an eight man tag match in Fort Worth on May 11. Kevin turned blue in the face and had to be revived by partner Tommy Rogers through CPP. Official reports claim that Kevin suffered a concussion and a fractured jaw as a result of a blow to the head sustained in the match. Brian Adias supposedly learned this "phantom punch" in the Orient. He'll be out for about a month.

COMMENTARY: It's uncanny how one family can be troubled by so many crises. One only can hope that "whatever" the cause of Kevin's problems, he'll "recover" completely --- and learn from the past.

NEWS ITEM: Bruiser Brody out as booker; Gary Hart in.

COMMENTARY: I'm sure Brody's heartbroken. Way to show that son of a gun, Fritz. That'll teach him for not getting Nord to lie down for Kevin. By the way, is Gary Hart accepting donations or just letters of condolence?

NEWS ITEM: Fritz and Continental settle their differences. Continental (talking about the syndication company - not the wrestling promotion in Alabama) forks over more than two hundred grand for the rights to the last five year's worth of World Class TV tapes. Meanwhile, Bum Bright Enterprises prepares to begin production of the "new" World Class show, scheduled to debut in early June.

COMMENTARY: Bum Bright had better hope the Cowboys have a helluva season.

NEWS ITEM: Jeep Swenson, Eli the Eliminator, Black Bart, Nord the Barbarian all depart World Class after receiving their compensation for the Fourth Annual David and Mike Von Erich Parade of Champions.

COMMENTARY: Ask yourself this: Would you slit your forehead open for \$250? Better yet, would you let Kevin Von Erich make you look bad for that much???

NEWS ITEM: Boy Tony arrives in World Class. Kevin Sullivan rumored to be following him in.

COMMENTARY: That's all this area needs is a devil worship angle. With all the havoc that's already been wreaked upon the promotion, you'd have to think that Satan himself may have beaten Sullivan to the punch.

GLOBAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE UPDATE

The newly formed and publicly owned Global Wrestling Alliance (GWA) held their first ever TV taping in Miami Beach at the Diplomat Hotel on May 10th.

Getting the big push is Erotic Adrian Street, who will be also working as a "recording artist" and is scheduled to release a series of rock 'n roll singles in cooperation with GWA during the later half of 1987.

Announcers at the May 10 taping were Ted Webb doing the play by play and colour commentator Craig Worthing, a local radio personality with NCAA wrestling experience.

As of May 26, GWA's stock was trading at a spread of .53-.73. In other words, if you wanted to buy the stock, there was someone out there willing to sell it to you for 73 cents a share. If you wanted to sell the stock, however, there was someone out there willing to buy it from you for 53 cents a share. The twenty cents difference, of course, is how the market-makers make their living.

Meanwhile, GWA's Director of TV Operations, Bernie Hoffman (who is touted as having extensive experience with the AEC network) has in-

licated that GWA will place a premium upon quality television programming. According to Hoffman, GWA spent more money on lighting for their first taping than any of the other wrestling promotions spend on their entire show's production. Whether or not that's true remains to be seen -- GWA us scheduled to debut on US television in September.

Furthermore, Hoffman has struck a deal with Powell Enterprises in England to market the show there, as well as the Armed Forces TV Network for additional overseas exposure. TV deals have also supposedly been set up in South America (Brazil), Africa, and the Orient. Negotiations are said to be in progress with ESPN and the Ted Turner broadcasting Group.

And, as promised, a couple of interesting excerpts from GWA's prospectus. Once again, a prospectus is the formal document prepared and submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission whenever a sorporation goes public. Then, the prospectus is made available to any individual who is considering investing in the stock:

ON THE WRESTLING INDUSTRY: "...Professional wrestling is a form of entertainment that allows spectators to vicariously participate through support of performers frequently marketed to represent either good or evil."

ON THE CARIBBEAN MARKET: "...Caribbean enthusiasm for professional wrestling has, in the opinion of the company's management, surpassed the 'wrestlemania' craze currently experienced in the United States.

On 'Wrestling's popularity': "...The popularity of the sport has increased recently due to more professional promotions, including participation by other entertainment personalities. During 'Wrestlemania'. a professional wrestling tournament held in New York on April 9, 1986, Cyndi Lauper, a popular musci star; Muhammed Ali, the popular former heavyweight boxing champion of the world; Billy Martin, the former manager of the New York Yankees; and Liberace, a world famous pianist, all took an active part in the program."

And I'll bet you never knew that Wrestlemania was a TOURNAMENT! (by the way, that's not a typo ---the document actually stated that Wrestlemania took place in 1986).

A spectator's opinion, for what it's worth: Speaking as someone who knows something about investments, and maybe a little more about pro wrestling, I'd be very wary of this one. Despite the fact that the broker representing the underwriting firm in Florida has continued to hound me since my initial inquiry ("the company has PHENOMENAL potential," he says over and over), I have my doubts. For one thing, he's a classic mark, and I wouldn't be surprised if he has no idea that pro wrestling is really all about. I'm inclined to believe that he's bought off on everything his brokerage firm has been fed by the principals of GWA. And, as well all know, the wrestling "execs" would never dream of exaggerating, or heaven forbid, misrepresenting the situation.

GWA's plans are, to say the least, optimistic - let alone grandiose. They've got a minimal amount of second and third class talent available to draw from (Can Adrian Street, Unlce Elmer, and Rusty Brooks really cut the mustard???), and television and marketing plans that rival Titan's (T-shirts, posters, comercial endorsements, etc). In short, I'd be really surprised if they pull it off. It's one thing to "invest" money in a ticket; it's another to invest in a promotion's overall success or failure.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

From all those results last issue to needing some this time...it's just not fair! Oh, well, send in the results, and what ever you do, don't assume someone else sent them in. If you want to rate the matches, we use grades A+ through 0, or school style....you'll see what we mean.....

5-18 DAVENPORT, IOWA (WWF) - courtesy of Joel Kolsrud... Jimmy Jack Funk drew Tom Magee...Outback Jack pinned French Martin...Nicolai Volkoff beat Clp Kirschner... Judy Martin/LeLani Kai over Velvet McIntyre/?...Iron Mike Sharpe beat Sivi Afi...Hercules beat Billy Jack in a chain match...NOTES: Attendance 900...wonder where all the talent was at?...see next report.

5-18 NEW YORK CITY (WWF) - by Sean Grande...Sam Houston pinned Terry Gibbs (C+)...Paul Roma/Jim Powers beat Bob Orton/Don Muraco when Roma pinned Orton (shades of the Mulkies)...Danny Davis over Koko (C+)...Lanny Poffo defeated Dave Barbie (C- zzzzzz)...Hulk Hogan beat Harley Race (C+)...Debbie Combs beat Moolah by count out (D-)...Demolition over Killer Bees (B-)...Ron Bass beat Jose-Luis Rivera (C-)...Ken Patera beat Honky Tonk Man by submission...NOTES: No exact attendance, but pretty poor from all accounts...as Hogan posed after his win, Race came back and KO'd Hogan with the belt, then dropped it on him...Hogan came out later and said if he couldn't beat Race he'd retire...Patera subbed for an injured Jake Roberts...it looked like Jimmy Hart had interfered for a DQ, but the ring announcer said it was a submission.

5-22 ST JOE, MO (CS) - courtesy of Bruce Grummert... Vinnie Valentino beat Russell Sapp...Warlord/Karl Kovac over Ric McCord/Earthquake Ferris...Rip Rogers defeated Dave Peterson...Bart Batten/Bobby jagers beat Mr Pogo/Porkchop Cash...Rufus beat Rip Rogers...NOTES: Attendance 550...rogers subbed for Bob Brown vs Rufus...Brenda Britton tried to interfere, but Mike George was there in street clothes to come back and right the wrong... poor Mike...everywhere he goes, Crockett buys the pro-motion (He walked out one time and Crockett never forgot).

5-23 HARTFORD, CT (WWF) - courtesy of Dan Reilly...
Houston beat Martin (D for Dud)...Bass pinned Outback Jack (D-)...Duggan beat Sheik (B)...Rogean Brothers beat Valentine/Bravo (D+)...Hercules over Billy Jack (B)...Hogan pinned Savage (B)...NOTES: Attendance 12,500...rating done by Dan, Chris Shinn, and Ted Bruttomesso...also a girl's tag match...looks like Rogean, Valentine, and Bravo are getting tired of the nightly grind...at one point Elizabeth took chair away from Randy as he was about to pound Hogan.

5-25 LOUISVILLE, KY (WWF) - courtesy of John Lanigan...
Bass beat Jones (D-)...Outback over Lombardi (C)...
Islanders over Muraco/Orton (C-)...Beefcake defeated Johnny V (D-)...Can Am over Kamala/Sika (C+)'...Hart Foundation over Bulldogs in a cage (B)...NOTES: Attendance 2000...Muraco/Orton reported working in slow motion all over country...ref wouldn't let Brutus cut Johnny V's hair so he took a couple of snips of the ref's instead...first out of cage was Davey Boy...second came Neidhart...Bret and DK both bled.

5-26 LOUISVILLE, KY (CWA) - courtesy of John Lanigan...
Shima/Helo beat Alan West/Kevin McQueen (C)...Travis/Jarrett over Diamond/Tanaka (A+)...Bubba/Goliath defeated Southern Boys (Cook/Seigler) (C)...Jarrett beat Moondog Spot (B)...Lawler/Dundee went DCOR with Idol/Rich (A-)...Travis/Jarrett tag match the best John has ever seen...Attendance 1100...Jarrett pinned Spot in 15 seconds, rating for post match brawl...
Main event was best described as utter chaos...brawled throughout building...bruno is very good at ringside...

5-28 ALLENTOWN, PA (WWF) - courtesy of Gary Howerter...
Tom Magee beat Terry Gibbs...Bam Bam Bigelow smashed Sivi Afi...Powers/Roma over the Shadows...Santana beat Reed...Patera/Steele over Volkoff/Killer Khan...
NOTES: Attendance 2000...Bam Bam missed with big splash off top ropes and hit Afi in shoulder and side of head...they carried him out and an ambulance took him to a local hospital...Santana-Reed went 25 minutes...
Duggan replaced by Patera...Sheik replaced by Khan...
sign on door announced their suspension before people came in.

Last issue's trivia question was: What famous movie star turned politician has a brother who was a preliminary wrestler for many years? The correct answer is Shirley Temple Black whose brother George wrestled on the East Coast for many years. This issue's question takes a bit of set up...Sgt Slaughter as a heel in the WWF once offered \$5000 to anyone who could break his dreaded cobra clutch. Who was the first victim? Answer next time. There is no prize for a correct answer, this is just for fun.

This past weekend, I got my first chance to do some wrestling myself (amateur) since high school. At a graduation party for my brother in law, some of the local high school wrestlers were there and with my background in the newsletter, things started out like the Lou Albano-Jeff Blatnik debate, and ended up with me taking on a 210 pounder. I beat him both on points and by pin. I was feeling pretty good (I'm back up to 175 now) so I accepted the challenge of a 140 pound ninth grader. Not only did he soundly thrash me, he tied me in so many knots that I got to see parts of my body that I had previously only seen through the use of a mirror. As I type this, everything still hurts including my eyelashes. Not nearly as much as my pride though.

Here's the story on how we got the Jim Duggan arrest story...I visited my dad in the hospital on 5-27. He asked if I had heard about it. I said, "No! Where'd you hear it?" He told me it was on a local radio newscast. I called the radio station and they didn't have a thing on it. It must have come off the wire. I called the other radio station in town and they didn't have anything either. So, I called WGN in Chicago. They have EVERYTHING. Everything but this. I was beginning to think that it was my dad's medication instead of a radio report. Then Gary Fishman called from New York to confirm the story. He had heard it on WINS-AM from New York City. Now, it's not that I didn't trust Gary, but I wanted as much information as I could. The lady at WINS said that they had the story, but I should just listen to WINS to get it. I told her that would be kind of hard since I lived in the middle of Illinois, and

some reason, that freaked her out. It took longer to explain to her how I got a hold of her than it did for her to read me the story.

One interesting side note...June 1st was to have been Jim Duggan Day in his home town of Glen Falls New York where the WWF was going to return to. Cancel those plans I guess. By the way, Jim's father is the Police Chief of Glen Falls (and now you know the outcome of the third fall).

Dan Reilly and I put our head together over the phone to think out a few things. The media in the Northeast is making a big deal out of the fact that they were riding together (and then wrestled each other that night). The WWF, after suspending the two (without pay) is just going to ignore the situation and pretend it never happened. We thought how they might explain it: 'The Iron Sheik (read this with a deep Texas drawl) was tryin' to corrupt the soul of Hacksaw Duggan with that e-vil weed mary-g-wahna. But the spirit of Americer showed through, and Duggan has learnt a lesson from this unfortunate experience.

Betcha if they come back, they never run that feud in the Northeast again.

A quick subscriber request: ALLAN COOPER-443 Elm - Wyandotte, MI 48192 has a collection of wrestling magazines for sale. Included are American, Japanese, and some from England. He didn't request it, but I'm sure he'd appreciate a SASE if you'd like a list.

Hope you all caught the back cover of the latest MAD Magazine. It's so funny, I bet even Vince was rolling on the floor.

I was also rolling on the floor last night, but for entirely different reasons. WFLD-TV out of Chicago has WWF wrestling on Friday nights here (we get it on the cable). They showed actual footage of Billy Graham's hip surgery, live and in technicolor. Folks, it was worse than the films they show in Lamaze class on C-sections. This morning though, on the Superstars program, they showed the segment, minus the operating room footage. I don't know what happened. Suffice to say if you missed it, you're lucky (unless of course you've got a cast iron stomach).

That's it for this time...see you in a couple weeks!

WRESTLING FORUM V2110
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